



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.2420 | FAX (517) 373.2764

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/garcia/

For Immediate Release
February 10, 2004

Contact: Karen Szczepanski
517-373-2420

Legislature announces Family and Marriage Preservation Plan

Lansing – Members of the Michigan Legislature gathered at the Capitol today to launch the bipartisan Family and Marriage Preservation Plan, Sen. Valde Garcia, R-Howell, announced. The plan promotes strong marriages, strong families and a strong Michigan.

“This package includes important provisions for premarital counseling and for developing parenting plans in the event of a divorce, which I believe is important,” Garcia said.

Garcia is sponsoring legislation that would transfer the authority to determine whether a divorce is in the best interest of a child from the prosecuting attorney to another entity other than the Friend of the Court that represents the child.

The legislative package seeks to:

- Encourage premarital education or counseling;
- Allow a clergy member to continue to legally offer marriage counseling after retirement;
- Provide a marriage preservation tax credit;
- Promote education programs on the effect of divorce; and
- Require parenting plans in divorce situations.

Sponsors of the 16-bill package include: Sens. Garcia, Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt; Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood; Michelle McManus, R-Lake Leelanau; Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland; Alan Sanborn, R-Richmond Twp.; and Jim Barcia, D-Bay City; as well as Reps. Joanne Voorhees, R-Wyoming; Ken Bradstreet, R-Gaylord; John Gleason, D-Flushing; Lauren Hager, R-Port Huron; John Moolenaar, R-Midland; John Stahl, R-North Branch; Lisa Wojno, D-Warren; and Barb Vander Veen, R-Allendale.

###